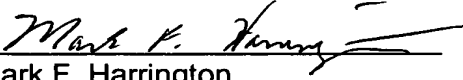


**REMARKS**

This amendment removes the multiple dependencies from the claims, adds headings to the specification and inserts the abstract. The amendment was not made for reasons related to patentability, and the full range of equivalents for all of the elements of the amended claims, as well as for all of the other claims, should remain intact.

A favorable consideration that results in the allowance of all of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Mark F. Harrington  
Reg. No.: 31,686  
**Customer No.: 29683**  
HARRINGTON & SMITH, LLP  
4 Research Drive  
Shelton, CT 06484-6212  
Telephone: (203) 925-9400  
Facsimile: (203) 944-0245

August 20, 2004  
Date